

Ebb

Prints & Carvings by Erin Jenkins

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Artist's Statement

In this series, water is the symbolic interpretation of words and emotion. It represents the dialogue, conscious thought, and constant stream of emotion in life's relationships. I use water as the visual vehicle for pain & darkness, joy & light. The ebb and flow one feels while immersed in the imagery becomes equivalent to truth and lie, the sweet and hurtful, the sometimes tumultuous or strangely symbiotic push and pull we encounter throughout our existence. There is no action without reaction, and the seesaw effect between the two can be overwhelming. Rolling movement within the images parallel how we express ourselves to others, perceive people's actions, and how we reconcile actions to ourselves. Our relationships all hang in a delicate balance, ever changing in a rhythmic pattern as long as lines of communication remain open. Some waters are peaceful, comfortable, and calming depicted by lazily flowing line. Others are turbulent with abrupt staccato steps, recognizing the possibility and fear of getting hurt, or simply knowing that when moving forward there will be rougher waters ahead.

Water is ever changing. It will never be the same as it is in this moment, nor will you. No one can see exactly what another sees, and likewise, the storyline of each person's life is absolutely unique. No one experiences everything the same as you do, or is affected as you are. Life's turbulences- a loss of a loved one, guilt, a heart break, or joys - a feeling of accomplishment, love, and pride, are all experienced differently.

Being drawn to water throughout my life has been my sanctuary. Whether it be the easily lapping sounds of waves caressing the shore, a splash from a kayak paddle, or the distinctive whip of a blustery white-capped day, this life source holds a peace within itself like no other element. It is essential to life, essential to well being, essential to emotive reflection to my conscious thought. It holds memories and nostalgic longing and is recognizable in pond & lake, ocean or puddle. Drink it in. Let yourself feel. Let it run through your veins and energize your body, soothe your anxieties, and feed your soul.

Artist's Bio

Erin Jenkins is a graduate of the Hartford Art School with a BFA in Printmaking and a double minor in Illustration and Art History. She currently resides in Norwalk CT and is a faculty member at the Silvermine Arts Center, teaching Introduction to Relief Printing. Two of her previous solo exhibitions include *Carved* at the Silo Gallery in New Fairfield CT, and *e* at Euphoria in New Haven, CT. She has participated in numerous exhibitions primarily in New England and New York including *Print Americas: Print Triennial National Juried Exhibition*, at the Silvermine Arts Center, *Three of a Kind* a three person show in Upper Saddle River New Jersey, the New Haven Paint & Clay Club's *112th Annual Open Juried Art Exhibition* at the John Slade Ely House Center for Contemporary Art, *Multiple Annual Open Juried Small Works* at the Mamaroneck Artists Guild, NY, was an Honorable Mention Award recipient in *COMING OF AGE: Artists in the North East Under 30*, at the Sharon Arts Center in Peterborough NH 2013, a 1st Place award recipient in *Focus Under 40* at the Rowayton Arts Center 2014, and has participated in numerous juried exhibitions and print exchanges across the United States as well as in her hometown of Chicopee Massachusetts.

Her preferred medium is relief printmaking and the carved wood block, although she relies heavily on having a strong foundation in drawing, and an infatuation with line, as it is a significant foundation for both finding new paths of inspiration and in creating new work. Plein air sketches, figure studies, and graphic pen and ink drawings are essential steps in creating a successful finished product. She believes strongly in experiencing new mediums, continuing to learn, and in growing constantly as a person and an artist. Her images tend to be illustrative whether they are in relation to a story, idea, or emotion.

For a full exhibition list, artwork, information, and inspiration, please visit erinjenkinsart.com
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